



**For immediate release
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DCR TO REPAIR SEVERE POTHOLE DAMAGE ON BOWKER OVERPASS IN BOSTON

One lane will be closed at night and on weekends

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is set to begin major pothole repairs on the Bowker Overpass southbound, which carries traffic from Storrow Drive to Park Drive and the Fenway.

Severe weather conditions this winter have created extensive damage, including vast numbers of potholes, on DCR roads, parkways, and bridges. On the Bowker, many potholes are deep enough to expose the underlying steel reinforcements and have reached a level where temporary patching will not suffice.

“Ensuring public safety is paramount at DCR, and it is important that we make these repairs immediately to honor that commitment,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “We appreciate the concerns of neighbors and commuters, and will do everything possible to minimize the noise and traffic disruption during this work. However, we need to address this issue immediately.”

To expedite the repairs, DCR has directed its contractor, SPS of Waltham, to work seven days a week, starting Wednesday, February 4. The right-hand southbound (inbound) lane will be closed on the following days and times:

Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m.-5 a.m. (each night)
7 p.m. Friday through 5 a.m. Monday

Significant jackhammering noise will be associated with the work, but jackhammering will be limited to the following hours:

Monday through Friday, 7 p.m.-10 p.m. (each night)
Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday, noon-6 p.m.

Weather permitting, the repairs are expected to be completed in about six weeks.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Winter is the worst season for potholes. They are created when the asphalt freezes and cracks, allowing water to seep in, freeze, and expand the cracks further. Cars, trucks, and plows then dislodge the broken asphalt.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.